



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS  
"FLORIDA HIGH"

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## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Instructions for 2011

Dear Prospective 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Student,

Before the first day of school **all** 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are to read the book given below (**regardless of whether you think you will be in general or honors**). You are responsible for getting your own book and reading it before school begins- purchase it, check it out from the library, or borrow from a friend.

\*\*\*Students will also be tested in class on this book on the first Friday back to school. The test may consist of multiple choice questions, true/false questions, matching and short answer.\*\*\*

### Assignment:

You are to read either *The Day of the Pelican* by Katherine Paterson or *Bystander* by James Preller.

While reading the book it is STRONGLY ENCOURAGED for you to take notes in the margin, on post-its or on a separate sheet by chapter **AS** you read. Although these notes will not be collected, it will be really critical to have them so you can review your notes before the test to make sure you are ready and can start off the school year with a quality grade for your first test. Follow these suggestions on what to take notes on:

### Good reading strategies for note taking:

**Predict** (example: what will come next in the text, what might happen to a character because of their choices, how might the conflict of the story be resolved, etc).

**Question** (example: ask questions about what you are reading- why is a particular character acting a certain way, why is the author starting with a strange opening, why is the author using similes or metaphors to describe things, or ask a question about something that confuses you). Respond to your questions.

**Make a comment** (example: make a comment about actions in the text, characters in the text, make a comment on use of foreshadowing clues the author is giving, comment on vocabulary choice, comment on strong images or interesting dialogue, etc).

**Make a connection** (example: does this story, characters, setting, themes, plot, etc remind you of anything in your own life, or other books or stories you have read, movies you have seen, t.v. shows you have watched?) Write about those connections.

**Clarify something you had misunderstood** (example: if you were confused about a character's actions and have now figured it out- write about it. If you figured out what a vocabulary word meant- write out the meaning. If you pieced clues from the story together to solve a mystery, or answered a prediction you had- write about it).

**Visualize** (example: what do you see in your head as you read? Describe the characters, setting, what the invisible narrator might look like, etc).

As an additional tool to help you understand what is happening in the text and to help the information stay in your long term memory- you are encouraged to talk about the book with friends and family!